**Assessment for learning in Religious Education**

Viewing our students’ Learning Skills and Work Habits through a uniquely Catholic perspective means to connect the six assessment criteria: Collaboration, Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Initiative and Self-Regulation to our Gospel values. Each of these important criteria complements our Catholic Themes and can help teachers form an understanding of **how** our students learn and **what kind** of Christian contributors they are and will become. As we are continuously working on deepening our relationship with God on our Faith journey, so too are students engaged in a process of skill building and personal reflection on how to be an effective and lifelong learner and contributor to a Christian community.

In the lesson I chose on understanding same sex attraction in the Family Life programme for grades 7-8, students are given the opportunity to demonstrate *Responsibility* as they are asked to complete written assignments and to contribute to class discussion. This skill relates directly to God’s call for the *Common Good* as students understand that it is in the best interest of the class community to complete work and to respectfully add to discussion and conversation. Students show themselves to be *Responsible Citizens* by accepting accountability for their actions and full participation.

The work habit of *Collaboration* is important as the discussions in this lesson revolve around respect and compassion for others who may appear to be different. An ability to resolve conflicts and to work towards common goals will require an effective communicator and a caring family member who also embodies the Gospel teachings of the importance of Dignity of the human person, love, justice and so much more.

Other aspects of this lesson allow time for students to reflect on their growth as Catholics who strive to create the Kingdom of God on earth. Continuously referring to and developing the Learning Skills and Work Habits in the context of building God’s kingdom paves the way for students to self-assess as their attitudes mature and grow.